

Message Text

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53

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6876

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, FI

SUBJECT: UN MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY FORCE

REF: (A) STATE 211411, AND (B) HELSINKI 2738

A. 1. ACCORDING TO FINNISH/NORDIC PLANS, AS INDICATED
IN PUBLICATION "NORDIC STANDBY FORCES IN UNITED
NATIONS SERVICE," (REFTEL B) (PRESENTED TO UN
SECGEN OCTOBER 12, 1973), FINLAND HAS AN IN-BEING
CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 1,200 OFFICERS AND MEN EARMARKED
FOR POSSIBLE UN SERVICE.

2. THIS FORCE IS MADE UP OF ONE MOTORIZED INFANTRY
BATTALION COMPOSED OF HEADQUARTERS, HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY, THREE RIFLE COMPANIES, AND A SUPPLY COMPANY,
ALTOGETHER 833 PERSONNEL STRENGTH. IN ADDITION TO
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THIS, ENVISAGED IS ONE MOVEMENT CONTROL UNIT (26

MEN), MILITARY POLICE UNIT (37), ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLATOON (31), MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON (52), CLEARANCE AND RESCUE UNIT (178), HEADQUARTER STAFF PERSONNEL (15), A LESS THAN READY FIELD HOSPITAL (72), AND AN OBSERVER GROUP (25) - ALREADY ON DUTY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE MOROTRIZED INFANTRY BATTALION IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHT INFANTRY WEAPONS, 81 MORTARS AND 55 MM RECOILLESS ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, BUT ITS FIRE POWER IS LESS THAN A REGULAR FINNISH BATTALION. THE BATTALION IS EQUIPPED WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF COMMAND VEHICLES, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE MOVEMENT CONTROL UNIT REQUIRES ON-THE-SPOT EQUIPMENT AND ADDITIONAL LABOR, AS DO THE CLEARANCE AND RESCUE AND THE MOTOR TRANSPORT UNITS. THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT IS DEPENDENT ON UN MOTOR TRANSPORT, AS IS THE FIELD HOSPITAL.

B. 1. SINCE THE PLANNED FINNISH CONTINGENT WOULD NOT HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FINNS WOULD BE ABLE TO TRANSPORT MOST OF THE MEN AND THE EQUIPMENT WITH COMMERCIALY CHARTERED FINNAIR PLANES.

2. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AS TO FINNISH WILLINGNESS OR LACK OF IT TO HAVE FINNISH CONTINGENT AIR LIFTED TO MIDDLE EAST BY USAF PLANES. GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE A UN OPERATION, OUR FEELING IS THAT THIS WOULD NOT PRESENT ANY REAL PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FINNS ON THIS OR OTHER ASPECTS OF MATTER, AS INSTRUCTED.

3. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE FINNISH CONTINGENT WOULD NEED A LIFT CAPACITY OF ABOUT 375,000 LBS., OR ABOUT THE EQUIVALENT OF 6-7 CARGO TYPE DC-8S.

COMMENT: THE BEST LOCAL FINNISH ESTIMATE IS THAT THE FINNISH CONTINGENT COULD BE READY WITHIN SEVEN DAYS
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OF RECEIPT OF A REQUEST FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. ALTHOUGH SUCH A REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED ON THE HIGHEST LOCAL POLITICAL LEVEL, WE SEE NO REASON WHY THE FINNS WOULD NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY, ESPECIALLY IF OTHER NORDICS DO SO. WE ARE NOT AWARE WHETHER FINNS WILLING BEAR FINANCIAL BURDEN OF LONG TIME ASSIGNMENT OF THEIR TROOPS TO UN SERVICE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT FINNS MIGHT WISH TO COUNT

200 PLUS MEN TRANSFERRED FROM THEIR CYPRUS UN FORCE
TO THE MIDDLE EAST AS PART OF THE MAXIMUM 1,200
MAN CONTRIBUTION PRESENTLY PLANNED FOR, AND THAT
CERTAIN UNITS, SUCH AS FIELD HOSPITAL, MAY TAKE MORE THAN
ONE WEEK TO HAVE READY FOR DISPATCH. GUTSIDE OF
CONVERSATION THAT EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAD WITH
FINNISH DEFENSE MINISTER ON OCTOBER 24 AS REPORTED
IN REFTEL B, WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED GGF ON THEIR
SUBJECT AND WILL NOT UNLESS SO INSTRUCTED. IF GOF
APPROACHES US WE WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY.
KREHBIEL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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